

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CA-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00  
PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 SP-02 /041 W  
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R 291150Z SEP 77  
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8803  
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 16236

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: UK, TC  
SUBJECT: MEETING OF UK-UAE JOINT COMMISSION

1. LUCAS, HEAD OF FCO MIDDLE EAST DEPARTMENT, BRIEFED US SEPTEMBER 28 ON THE MEETING HELD THE DAY BEFORE THE UK-UAE JOINT COMMISSION. MINISTER OF STATE JUDD HAD PRESIDED FOR THE UK. FONMIN SUWAYDI AND MAHDI TAJIR HAD REPRESENTED THE UAE. HOWEVER, ASIDE FROM THESE TWO, NONE OF THE EXPERTS EXPECTED FROM THE UAE SHOWED UP, AND THOSE WHO CAME IN THEIR PLACE WERE NOT BRIEFED. CONSEQUENTLY, INSTEAD OF FOCUSING ON SPECIFIC ECONOMIC ISSUES AS THE BRITISH WERE PREPARED TO DO, THE MEETING DEGENERATED INTO A RAMBLING DISCURSIVE DISCUSSION ON POLITICAL AFFAIRS. LUCAS OBSERVED TO EMBOFF THAT IF THIS SORT OF COZY CHAT IS ALL THE UAE WANTS, IT COULD BETTER BE CONDUCTED IN SMALL MINISTERIAL LEVEL MEETINGS.

2. IN RESPONSE TO EMBOFF'S QUESTION, LUCAS INFORMED HIM THAT UK AND UAE HAD AGREED TO RECIPROCAL ABOLITION OF VISA REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTRY, DESPITE FCO MISGIVINGS LAST YEAR (76 LONDON 7687). WHILE PARLIAMENT MUST BE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISAPPROVE THE AGREEMENT, LUCAS THOUGHT IT WOULD BE FINALIZED AND GO INTO EFFECT  
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BY THE END OF THIS YEAR. ALTHOUGH THE UAE HAS GIVEN A FIRM UNDERTAKING TO EXERCISE STRICT CONTROL OVER ITS PASSPORT ISSUANCES, THE BRITISH RECOGNIZE THAT HMG WILL HAVE AN ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEM ON CONTROLLING ENTRY HERE, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE TERRORIST THREAT. CONVERSELY, THE UAE IS WORRIED ABOUT THE PROSPECTIVE FLOW OF INDIANS AND PAKISTANIS WITH BRITISH PASSPORTS

INTO THE UAE WHICH WOULD RESULT FROM THE NEW AGREEMENT.

STREATOR

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
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